PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: LB 61 advanced to E & R. We'll move on to LB 106.

CLERK: Mr. President, 106 was a bill introduced by Senator Lee Rupp. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 8, referred to the Education Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rupp, please.

SENATOR RUPP: Mr. President, colleagues, unlike some of the other school consolidation bills that we'll have before us in the coming weeks and months, this one is noncontroversial, I believe. It is a recycle bill that was introduced last year as LB 897, passed the Education Committee on a vote of 6-0. But it was not declared a priority bill, so it ran out of time. I introduced it again this year, recently it came out of Education Committee by a vote of I believe 7-0. I introduced this bill on behalf of Lakeview High School, a Class VI school in my district, a board member of which is the President of the State Class VI Association. I guess I should give just a brief explanation. Most of you know, of course, that a Class I school is kindergarten through eighth grade. A Class VI is a high school only, that is an umbrella that encompasses a varying number of feeder schools of Class I's. Lakeview is a Class VI like that, it encompasses five Class I's in the north half of Platte County. I introduce it again on their behalf. There is one word in the one-liner on your agenda that scares me a little bit. It is inaccurate, that first word "require schools to consolidate". It should be "allow", more properly be "allow". I don't want to raise any red flags where it isn't necessary. Simply what it does, a Class I now that is contracting for instruction of its pupils with another Class I can merge with that I. That is existing law. This simply changes that to say...it leaves that intact, but it also says that a Class I can merge with any other Class I as long as that other Class I is part of a Class VI. I realize that concept is a little hard to grasp. You almost have to sit down with pencil and paper and draw out some little districts. But I'll repeat again the second half of it, the major portion. It allows a Class I to